

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Board Office

**Subject:** Proposal for a Master of Science in Athletic Training at the University of Northern Iowa

**Date:** July 7, 2003

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**Recommended Action:** Approve the University of Northern Iowa's proposal for a Master of Science in Athletic Training.

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**Executive Summary:** The University of Northern Iowa is requesting approval for a Master of Science in Athletic Training in the College of Education.

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**Program Objective** The proposed program, which is outcomes-focused and clinically-based, is designed for certified athletic trainers who want to further their education in the treatment and rehabilitation of the physically active.

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**Similar Program** The University of Iowa offers a Master of Science degree in Exercise Science with specialization in the area of athletic training. However, while SU's program is designed to provide a combination of research and specialization training, UNI's proposed program will focus solely on the athletic training discipline.

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**Consultation with Other Regent Universities** Both the University of Iowa and Iowa State University were consulted and have expressed support regarding the development of this program.

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**Reviewed by ICEC** The proposed program has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC) and is recommended for approval.

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**Link to Strategic Plan:**

This effort is part of the institutional activities which help the Board of Regents achieve its objective to improve access to the Regent institutions as stated in its current Strategic Plan:

KRA 2.0.0.0            Provide access to educational, research, and service opportunities within the missions of the Regent institutions.

Objective 2.2.2.0      Evaluate annually and, where appropriate, make recommendations to meet relevant educational and service needs of the state.

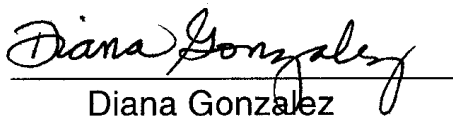
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Cost                      A new faculty tenure-track line has been allocated to the proposed program. The first-year budget for the proposed program is projected to be \$51,400, most of which is for the new faculty position.

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Regent Program        Attached is a copy of the University's responses to the Regents' New  
Review Questions      Program Review Questions (pages 3–8).

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Diana Gonzalez

Approved:   
Gregory S. Nichols

<b>REGENTS PROGRAM REVIEW QUESTIONS: NEW MAJOR</b>
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COLLEGE: Education

DEPT/SCHOOL: School of Health Physical Education and Leisure Services (HPELS)

DEGREE: Master of Science

MAJOR IN: Athletic Training

1. How will this proposed program further the educational and curriculum needs of the students in this discipline?

A graduate program in Athletic Training will offer the graduate degree option to students who complete UNI's undergraduate program in Athletic Training as well as to students from other institutions. The proposed graduate degree is a logical extension of the undergraduate Athletic Training program approved by the Board of Regents in 2000. The undergraduate program has grown rapidly and currently enrolls 84 students (Fall, 2002 Enrollment Report), many of whom have indicated an interest in graduate education. Current employment trends in the profession favor those with graduate degrees. There is only one graduate program in the State of Iowa in athletic training at this time. As a result, the only option that students have wishing to pursue advanced studies is the Master of Science degree in Department of Exercise Science at The University of Iowa which offers a specialization in Athletic Training. Many students currently leave the state to pursue graduate education in Athletic Training.

2. How does it further the educational and curriculum needs of other units in the college or university?

The program is consistent with UNI's historical mission to prepare professionals working primarily in educational settings. Programs in physical education, health and recreation at the University of Northern Iowa trace their roots to the founding of a Department of Physical Culture in 1896. UNI's "Gymnasium" built in 1903, was the first complex of this type west of the Mississippi River. For over 100 years the department has been preparing physical educators, coaches, health educators, and recreation and leisure professionals. The prevention and treatment of sport injuries has evolved as an important part of a contemporary, integrated and holistic education for sport, fitness and leisure professionals. The proposed program compliments other longstanding leadership development and graduate programs in the College of Education and the School of HPELS including programs which prepare leaders for K-12 education. Faculty in the School of HPELS and the College of Education have ongoing valuable partnerships in the community with schools, youth-sport associations, city and county service providers, community park and recreation departments and other providers that support experiential learning opportunities for students and enhance education, sport, leisure and health promotion for all. A proposed Human Performance Center compliments the partnership tradition and will

provide enhanced facilities for the athletic training academic program and other outreach efforts of the College of Education, as well as services to be provided to university athletic programs. These initiatives will be enhanced with the addition of the M.S. program in Athletic Training. The proposed program will assist our efforts at building additional community partnerships and extend our public service effort in an effective way in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls community and in Northeast Iowa.

3. What programs in this field of study are available in other colleges and universities in Iowa?

The University of Iowa offers a Master of Science Degree in Exercise Science with Specialization in the area of Athletic Training.

4. With what representatives of these programs have you consulted in developing this proposal? Provide a summary of the reactions of each institution consulted.

Dr. Dan Foster, Athletic Training Program Director at The University of Iowa, was contacted in regard to our proposal. He stated: "If you are attempting to develop an [NATA] accredited program, I am in support of your proposal to develop an accredited MS Degree in Athletic Training. Obviously, you have developed a standout undergraduate program. Because there are no [NATA] accredited graduate programs in Iowa, and because three [CAAHEP Accredited] undergraduate programs and many more will soon exist, it would benefit the state to offer such a program. (e-mail from Dr. Dan Foster to Dr. Biff Williams, 10/07/02). Dr. Jerry A. Maynard, Chair and Professor, Department of Exercise Science at The University of Iowa has indicated the following: "The University of Iowa has no objection to UNI developing a graduate degree program in Athletic Training." (e-mail communication from Dr. Jerry A. Maynard via Nancy Williams to Susan Koch, 5/04/03).

Dr. Jerry R. Thomas, Chair of the Department of Health and Human Performance at Iowa State University also responded to a consultation request and indicated that Iowa State supports the approval of this program proposal. Ms. Mary Meier, Athletic Training Program Director at Iowa State University, was also consulted. She also indicated support for the proposal, noting that the program "will give students graduating from Iowa State University a place to pursue advanced knowledge, experience and research in athletic training." (10/18/02)

5. In what ways is this proposed program similar to those mentioned above? In what ways is it different or does it have a different emphasis?

The proposed Athletic Training Master of Science degree at the University of Northern Iowa is designed for NATABOC Certified Athletic Trainers who wish to further their education in the treatment and rehabilitation of the physically active. Applied and clinically oriented, the program is focused on providing support to a wide-range of clients and settings. In addition, the program is outcomes-based and centered on enhancing field-based rehabilitative and preventative athletic training practice. The Master of Science degree in Exercise Science with a specialization in Athletic Training offered by The University of Iowa is designed to provide the candidate with (1) knowledge of the nature and extent of research in the field (2) a

basic preparation in the tools of research and (3) preparation in an area of specialization. Although the graduate degree in Exercise Science with the Athletic Training Specialization at The University of Iowa and the proposed M.S. in Athletic Training at the University of Northern Iowa both provide graduate education in Athletic Training, the UNI program will focus solely on the Athletic Training discipline with coursework provided by five (5) Ph.D. prepared faculty in the discipline. The program at the University of Northern Iowa is outcomes focused and clinically-based and may appeal more to students who have an applied focus.

A comparison of the required coursework proposed by the University of Northern Iowa program with the specialization in Exercise Science at The University of Iowa attest to the differences in the intent of the programs. Coursework in the proposed program at the University of Northern Iowa include Pathoetiology and Orthopedic Assessment I and II, Evidence Based Rehabilitation Practice I and II, Orthopedic Surgical Interventions, Current Topics in Allied Health, and Administration and Leadership in Athletic Training, Statistical Methods in Education, Seminar in Physical Education, Practicum, Research Methods for Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services, Thesis (a non-thesis option is available) and selective electives. The requirements at The University of Iowa include the Exercise Science core course options in Athletic Training include Exercise Physiology, Physiology of Exercise, Physiology Laboratory, Human Physiology, Embryology and Connective Tissue Anatomy, Skeletal Muscle Biology, Molecules to Malady, Motor Control I: Neurophysiological Basis, Biomechanics of Human Motion and Advanced Human Anatomy. Additional core course options outside of Exercise Science include Intermediate Statistical Methods or Introduction to Biostatistical and other research tools deemed appropriate by the faculty. The specific Athletic Training courses include Sports Medicine Conference in Orthopedic Surgery, Practicum in College Teaching, Thesis or Non-thesis Research and work in one concentrate athletic training.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~exsci/Graduate/MSAthTrn.htm> 5/06/03.

6. How does the proposed program supplement the current programs available?

The proposed Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training builds upon the strong undergraduate and graduate education programs currently offered by the School of Health, Physical Education and Leisure Services. The program will add to the quality of graduate programs within the College of Education consistent with our mission of preparing educators for school and non-school settings and focused on improving education and human services. The proposed program will serve as a model for developing partnerships, aimed at enhancing university/ community services and relationships. Support for field-based opportunities will be greatly enhanced by partnership with intercollegiate athletics programs in high schools, youth-sport associations, community park, recreation departments and other providers. The program involves the establishment of a community network that will provide experiential learning for students while also enhancing the quality and quantity of athletic training services available to the aforementioned groups. The graduate program will provide an effective mechanism to help address the need for more advanced, graduate-level athletic training professionals in sport, athletic and fitness programs at all levels, particularly where the advanced degree is preferred or

required. The proposed program is distinctive in that it is applied, clinically oriented, outcomes-based and centered on enhancing field-based rehabilitative and preventative athletic training practice. Direct services to be provided by athletic trainers require certification by the National Athletic Training Board of Certification. Such certification can only be obtained following graduation from an accredited athletic training education program and successful completion of NATABOC Examination. Therefore, to more effectively support both our teaching and public service missions, a graduate program is necessary.

7. Has the possibility of some kind of interinstitutional program or other cooperative effort been explored? What are the results of this study?

Yes, the two other regent institutions have been consulted (see above). Both institutions are supportive of our proposal and we look forward to interinstitutional cooperation in the future.

8. Estimate the enrollment in this program for the next five years.

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
a. Undergraduate:					
Majors	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Non-majors	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Graduate:					
Majors	<u>05</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
Non-majors	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

9. On what basis were these estimates made?

Estimates are based on current undergraduate enrollment and expressed interest in graduate work by current undergraduates, as well as on employment trends within the athletic training field.

10. What are the anticipated sources of these students?

Sources include UNI's own undergraduate program and other Iowa colleges and universities, as well as other Mid-west undergraduate athletic training programs.

11. Provide any available data or information on employment opportunities available to graduates of this program in Iowa and nationally.

Since the undergraduate program was established, the UNI Athletic Training program has had 100% placement of bachelor's degree graduates in either professional positions or graduate school. Although there is not any published data as to the need of athletic training graduates, we have observed that certified athletic trainers are in high demand. When conferring with the other regent schools we found that they too have had 100% placements for the past several years. Graduate students have gone on to work in clinical, high school, collegiate, professional, hospital, and industrial settings.

12. Are there accreditation standards for this program?

Yes

a. What is the accreditation organization?

The National Athletic Trainers Association

b. What accreditation timetable is anticipated?

We will be seeking accreditation by 2005.

13. Does the proposed program meet minimal national standards for the program, e.g., Council of Graduate Schools or other such bodies?

Yes

14. Report any reactions of the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education.

None

15. List the Iowa institutions in which articulation agreements are being developed for the proposed program.

N/A

16. Additional Resource Needs

a. Estimate the probable marginal increases in expenditures that may be necessary as a result of the adoption of this program for the next three years.  
[Note: for new space needs (item f), estimate the amount and cost of new and/or remodeled space]

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR
(1) Faculty	\$45,000		
(2) Grad. Assistants			
(3) General Expense			
(4) Equipment	\$5,000		
(5) Library Resources			
(6) New Space Needs			
(7) Computer Use	\$1,400		
(8) Other (specify)			
TOTAL COST	\$51,400		

- b. Describe the nature of and justification for the additional resource needs.

The additional resources needed are directly related to the need for one additional tenure track faculty member in the Division of Athletic Training.

- c. How is it anticipated that the additional resource needs will be provided? [For programs planning to use external grants, what would be the effect of the grant termination?]

New faculty positions are allocated on an as need basis by the Dean of the College of Education in consultation with department administrators and faculty. Based on need, we have been granted an additional tenure track line that brings the total number of Ph.D. prepared faculty in the Athletic Training discipline to five.